AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for transmitting decryption codes for freely transmitted encrypted program contents and for automatically establishing billing data for the program contents, comprising:

a customer receiving encrypted program content from a broadcast source;

connecting the customer to a service provider ~~by a customer~~ via the customer's subscriber network, by placing a telephone call;

determining a network terminating unit of the existing connection to the service provider, and a calling party number of the customer and a called number of the service provider;

transmitting a decryption code for a program content to the customer;

establishing billing data using the network terminating unit, in particular the calling party number, the called number of the service provider, and information about the requested program content;

wherein said program content data is transmitted through a different medium than said decryption code and wherein said decryption code is transmitted through a telephone line.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~setup of the connection~~ the connecting to a service provided by the customer is executed by the dialing of a

call number of the service provider and the acceptance of the telephone call by the service provider.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one additional identification feature is retrieved from the caller during the period of the telephone call and before the transmission of the decryption code.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Method according to Claim 3, wherein the validity of the identification features is checked, and the decryption code is transmitted only in the case of validity.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Method according to Claim 3, wherein the additional identification features include at least one of the following:

an age-related or personal identification code, an identification or device number of a decoder receiving the decryption code.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the decryption code is generated specifically for an identified decoder and transmitted to said identified decoder.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented):   Method according to claim 1, wherein the information about the identified calling party number is integrated in the decryption code.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented):   Method according to claim 1, wherein the program content for which the decryption code is to be sent is queried before the transmission of the decryption code.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented):   Method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the following items of information is stored for the billing data, or forwarded to a corresponding billing unit: the called number, the time and/or duration of the telephone connection, the additional identification features and/or the transmitted decryption code.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the billing data is forwarded to the telecommunication service provider for collection.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the called number is a service number, which is billed via the telecommunication service provider.

Claims 12-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): Device for transmitting decryption codes for freely transmitted encrypted program contents to a registered subscriber group, said device comprising:

a unit for establishing a connection between a customer and a service provider over a subscriber network of the customer, in particular a telephone connection between a customer and a service provider;

a unit for determining the network terminating units of the existing connection between the customer and the service provider, in particular the calling party number of a customer and the called no. of the service provider;

a memory unit for storing data of a registered subscriber group with its respective network terminating units (terminals), in particular its call numbers;

a unit for comparing the network terminating units (terminals), in particular the established call numbers with the registered data; and

a unit for transmitting the decryption code.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): Device according to Claim 22, wherein a unit for storing and/or forwarding billing data, consisting of at least the customer's call number, the called no. of the service provider and information about the program content for which the decryption code was transmitted.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): Device according to Claim 22, wherein a comparator unit is provided for comparing a received item of information with stored information.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): System for decrypting freely transmitted encrypted program contents, the system having the following:

a receiver unit for receiving the encrypted program content;

a unit for establishing a connection between a customer and a decryption code transmission unit of a service provider over a subscriber network of the customer;

a memory for storing a decryption code transmitted over the connection; and

a decoder for decrypting the encrypted program content with the help of the decryption code.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): System according to Claim 25, wherein the connection is a telecommunication link.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): System according to Claim 25, wherein the system comprises a memory for storing information for the connection setup, in particular for storing a telephone number to be called.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): System according to claim 25, wherein the system comprises a unit for input of information for the connection setup, in particular a telephone number to be called and/or additional information.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): System according to Claim 28, wherein the unit comprises a remote control of the decoder.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): System according to Claim 28, wherein the unit comprises an interactive terminal device, in particular a telephone.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): System according to claim 25, wherein an error detection unit is provided, which detects whether the stored decryption code correctly decodes a desired program content.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn/Previously Presented): System according to claim 25, wherein the system includes a unit for automatic setup of a connection and for retrieval of a decryption code at preset times.

Claim 33-38(Canceled)

Claim 39 (New): A method for transmitting decryption codes for freely transmitted encrypted program contents and for automatically establishing billing data for the program contents, comprising:

receiving encrypted program content from a broadcast source;

connecting a customer to a service provider via the customer's subscriber network, by placing a telephone call;

determining a network terminating unit of the existing connection to the service provider, and a calling party number of the customer and a called number of the service provider;

transmitting a decryption code for a program content to the customer;

establishing billing data using the network terminating unit, in particular the calling party number, the called number of the service provider, and information about the requested program content;

wherein said program content data is transmitted through a different medium than said decryption code, wherein said broadcast source is a line-connected transmission source and wherein said decryption code is transmitted through a telephone line.

Claim 40 (New): A method for transmitting decryption codes for freely transmitted encrypted program contents and for automatically establishing billing data for the program contents, comprising:

receiving encrypted program content from a broadcast source;

connecting a customer to a service provider via the customer's subscriber network, by placing a telephone call;

determining a network terminating unit of the existing connection to the service provider, and a calling party number of the customer and a called number of the service provider;

transmitting a decryption code for a program content to the customer;

establishing billing data using the network terminating unit, in particular the calling party number, the called number of the service provider, and information about the requested program content;

wherein said program content data is transmitted through a different medium than said decryption code, wherein said broadcast source is an over-the-air broadcast source and wherein said decryption code is transmitted through a telephone line.